ומרדבי לא יכרע ולא ישתחווה...למה?

Why Didn't Mordekhai Bow to Haman?

אסתר פרק ג

After these things king Ahasuerus promoted Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, and advanced him, and set his seat above all the princes who were with him. And all the king's servants, who were in the king's gate, bowed, and did obeisance to Haman; for the king had so commanded concerning him. But Mordecai did not bow, nor did him obeisance. Then the king's servants, who were in the king's gate, said to Mordecai, Why do you transgress the king's command? Now it came to pass, when they spoke daily to him, and he did not listen to them, that they told Haman, to see whether Mordecai's words would stand; for he had told them that he was a Jew. And when Haman saw that Mordecai did not bow, nor did him obeisance, then was Haman full of wrath. And he disdained to lay hands on Mordecai alone; for they had told him the people of Mordecai; therefore Haman sought to destroy all the Jews who were throughout the whole kingdom of Ahasuerus, the people of Mordecai.

- ב פסוק ב (2
- Haman declared himself to be a deity (Rashi) : כרעים ומשתחוים שעשה עצמו אלוה לפיכך ומרדכי לא יכרע ולא ישתחוה
 - ראב"ע שם (3

(he had an image on his clothes) - יברע וישתחוה - ידועים ונכון מה שדרשו רז"ל כי צורת צלם וע"ז היו בבגדיו או על מצנפתו:

- אסתר פרק ה
- (ט) וַיִּצֵא ׄ הָמָן בַּיִּוֹם הַהֹּוֹא שָׁמֶח וְטִוֹב לֶב וְכִרְאוֹת הָמָוֹ אֶת־מֶרְדָּכֵי בְּשַׁעַר הַמֶּלֶךְ וְלֹא־קָם וְלֹא־ זֶע מִמֶּנוּ וַיִּפָּלִא הָמָן עַל־מָרְדָּכַי חֵמְה: (י) וַיִּתְאַפַּק הָבָּוֹוַיָּבוֹא אֶל־בִּיתוֹ וַיִּשְׁלַח וַיָּבֵא אֶת־אֹהֲבֶיו וְאֶת־זֶרֶש אִשְׁתוֹ: (יא) וַיְסַבּּר לְהֶם הָמֵן אֶת־כְּבְוֹד עָשְׁרוֹ וְרָב בָּגֵיו וְאֵת בְּשֶׁער הְמֶלֶךְ אֶל־הַמִּא עַל־ הַשְּּלֶח וַיִּבִא אֶת־אֹהֲבֶיו וְאֶת־זֶרֶש אִשְׁתוֹ: (יא) וַיִּלּל הָׁ אֲף לֹא־הַבִּיאָה אֶסְתֵּר הַמֵּלְךָ: (יב) וַיִּאמֶה הְמֶל אָף לֹא־הַבִּיאָה אֲשֶׁר הַמֵּלְרָ: הִישְׁר בְּמֶעָר הַמֶּלֶרְ: הִיּשְׁר בְּמֶעֵר הַמֶּלֶרְ: (יג) וְלָל־זֶה אֵינָנוּ שׁוֶה לֵי בְּכְל־שֵׁר אֲשֶׂר אֲמָי הֹאָה אֶת־מְרְדְּבֵּי הַיְּהוּלִי יוֹשֵּר בְּשַעַר הַמֶּלֶרְ:
 - אסתר רבה (וילנא) פרשה ז

ר' פנחס אמר שני עשירים עמדו בעולם אחד לישראל ואחד לעובדי כוכבים ולא עמד להם ממונם אלא לרעתם, קרח בישראל שמצא אוצרות של כסף וזהב שהטמין יוסף, והמן בעובדי כוכבים לקח אוצרות מלכי יהודה וכיון שראה המלך את עשרו ועשרת בניו לפניו שרים עמד וגדלו ורוממו הה"ד אחר הדברים האלה גדל המלך אחשורוש את המן בן המדתא האגיוינשאהו וצוה המלך שיהו כוכבים. בניו לפניו שרים עמד וגדלו ורוממו הה"ד אחר הדברים האלה גדל המלך אחשורוש את המן בן המדתא המן חוה לעבודת כוכבים. R. Phinehas said: There were two rich men in the world, one in Israel and one among the idolaters, whose money proved their ruination. In Israel there was Korah, who found the treasures of gold and silver that Joseph had hidden. Among the idolaters there was Haman, who seized the treasures of the kings of Judah. When the king saw his wealth and his ten sons of princely rank before him, he forthwith promoted and exalted him, as it says, AFTER THESE THINGS DID KING AHASUERUS PROMOTE HAMAN THE SON OF HAMMEDATHA THE AGAGITE, AND ADVANCED HIM, and the king ordered all to bow down and prostrate themselves before him. What did Haman then do? He attached an embroidered image to his garment upon his breast, and everyone who bowed down to Haman bowed down to the image.

אסתר רבה (וילנא) פרשה ז (6

מה אמר להם מרדכי למי שאומר לו מדוע אתה עובר את מצות המלך, ר' לוי אמר אמר להם מרדכי משה רבינו הזהיר לנו בתורה ארור האיש אשר יעשה פסל ומסכה, ורשע זה עושה עצמו עבודת כוכבים

What did Mordecai say to those who asked him WHY TRANSGRESSEST THOU THE KING'S COMMANDMENTS (III, 3)? R. Levi said: He said to them: 'Our master Moses admonished us in the Torah saying, Cursed be the man that maketh a graven or molten image (Deut. XXVII, 15); and this wretch sets himself up as a deity.

אסתר פרק א (

(י) בּיוֹם הַשְּבִיעִׁי כְּטִוֹב לֵב־הַמֶּלֶךְ בַּיֶּין אָמַׁר לִּמְהוּמָן בִּוְּרָא חַרְבוֹנָא בִּגְתָא וַאֲבַגְתָא זֵתַר וְבַרְבַּס שִּבְעַת הַפֶּרֵיסִים הַמְשָּרְתִּים אֶת־פְּנֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ אֲחַשְּוֹרִוֹש: (יא) לְהָבִיא אֶת־וַשְּתִּי הַמֵּלְבָּה לִפְנֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ בְּכֶתֶר מֵלְלֵית לְהַרְאוֹת הֲעַמַים וְהַשָּׁרִים אֶת־יִפְּלָּה הִיא: (יב) וַהְּבָאֵן הַמַּלְבֵה וַשִּׂתִּי לַבוֹא בָּדְבַר הַמָּלֵךְ אֵשֵּר בִּיֵּר הַפָּרִיסִים וַיִּלְצֵּף הַמֵּלֶךְ מִאֹר וְחַמָתוֹ בַּעֵרה בִוֹ:

On the seventh day, when the heart of the king was merry with wine, he commanded Mehuman, Biztha, Harbonah, Bigtha, and Abagtha, Zethar, and Carcas, the seven eunuchs who served in the presence of Ahasuerus the king, To bring Vashti the queen before the king with the royal crown, to show the people and the princes her beauty; for she was beautiful to look on. But the queen Vashti refused to come at the king's command by his eunuchs; and the king was very angry, and his anger burned in him.

אסתר ט (8

(יז) בְּיוֹם־שְׁלֹשֶׁה עָשֶׁר לְחָדֶש אֲדֶר וְנֹוַח בְּאַרְבָּעָה עָשָׁר בֹּוּ וְעָשִׂה אֹתוֹ יִזֹם מִשְׁתֶה וְשִׁמְחֵה: (יח) וְהַיְהוּדֵים אֲשֶׁר-בְּשוּשָׁן נִקְהַלוֹ בִּשְׁלְשְׁה עָשָּׁר בֹּו וּבְאַרְבָּעָה עָשֶּׁר לְחָדֵש אֲדֶׁר שָׁמָחָה וּמִשְׁהֵּה וִיִּזֹם מִזֹב וּמִשְׁלָּוֹח מִנוֹת אֵישׁ לְרֵעָהוּ: עִשִּׁים אָת יוֹם אַרְבַּעָה עַשַּׁר לְחָדֵש אֵדֶּר שִּׁמָחָה וּמִשְׁהֵּה וִיִּזֹם טָזֹב וּמִשְׁלְוֹחָ מֵנוֹת אֵישׁ לְרֵעָהוּ:

(כ) וַיִּכְתִּב מֶרְדֵּבַי אֶת־הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶה וַיִּשְׁלֵח סְפָּרִים אֶל־בָּל־הַיְּהוּדִים אֲשֶׁר בְּכָל־מְדִינוֹת הַמֶּלֶךְ אֲחַשְׁוֵרוֹשׁ הַקְּרוֹבֶים וְהָרְחוֹקִים: (כא)
לְקֵיֵם עֲלֵיהֶם לְהְיוֹת עֹשִׁים אֵת יוֹם אַרְבָּעָה עָשָׁר לְחִדֶשׁ אֲדָּר וְאֵת יוֹם־חֲמִשָּׁה עָשֶּׁר בְּוֹ בְּכֶל־שָׁנֶה וְשָׁנֶה: (כב) בִּיָמִים אֲשֶּר־נָחוּ בְהֶם
הַיְּהוּדִים מֵאוֹיְבִיהֶּם וְהַחֹדֶשׁ אֲשֶׁר נֶהְבַּּךְ לְהֶם מִיְּגוֹן לְשִׁמְחָה וּמֵאֶבֶל לְיִוֹם מֻוֹב לַעֲשְּוֹת אוֹהָם יְמֵי מִשְּתָה וְשִּמְחָה וּמִשְּלְוֹח מָנוֹת אֵישׁ
לְרֵעִשִּׁוֹת וְאֵת אֲשֵׁר־בַּתֵב מַרְדֵּבִי אֵלִיהֵם:
לְרֵעָשׁוֹת וְאֵת אֲשֵׁר־בַּתֵב מַרְדֵּבִי אֵלִיהֵם:

10) בראשית פרק לט

(ז) וְיְהִי אַחַרֹ הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶה וַתִּשָּא אֲשֶׁת־אֲדֹנֵיו אֶת־עֵינֶיהָ אֶל־יוֹסֶף וַהָּאֹטֶר שִּבְבָה עִמְי: (ח) וַיְּמָאוֹ וַיֹּאטֶר אֶל־אֵשֶׁת אֶלְידִי: (ט) אֵינֶנוּ גְּדֹוֹל בַּבַּיִת הַיָּה מִפֶּנִי וְלֹא־חָשֵׂךְ מִפֶּנִי מְאֹימְה בָּנִית וְכֵל אֲשֶׁר־יָשׁ־לוֹ נְתַּוֹ בְּיִבִי: (ט) אֵינֶנוּ גְדוֹל בַּבַּיִת הַיָּה מְפֶּנִי וְלֹא־חָשַׂךְ מִפֶּנִי מְאֹימְה בְּיִבְיַת אַמֶּה הָרְעָה הַגְּדֹלְה בָּצִישְׁר אַתְּראשְׁתוֹ וְאֵיךְ אֶעֲשֶׁה הָרְעָה הַגְּדֹלְה מִבֹּית וְחָטֶאתִי לֵאלֹהִים: (י) וֹיְדְיֹי בְּבַרְה אֶעֶשֶׁה הָרְעָה הַבְּיִנוֹם וֹיְלָא הַבִּית שֵּבְּר הַבְּיִתָה לַשְשִׁוֹת מְלַאַרְתוֹּ עִמְּה: (יא) וַיְהִי לְשְׁפֵּוֹם הַיָּבְי הבִית שם בבית: (יב) ותתפשהו בבגדו לאמר שכבה מאנשי הבית שם בבית: (יב) ותתפשהו בבגדו לאמר שכבה מאנשי הבית שם בבית: (יב) ותתפשהו בבגדו לאמר שכבה

עפוי ויעוב בגדו בידה וינס ויצא החוצה:

And it came to pass after these things, that his master's wife cast her eyes upon Joseph; and she said, Lie with me. But he refused, and said to his master's wife, Behold, my master knows not what is with me in the house, and he has committed all that he has to my hand; There is none greater in this house than I; nor has he kept back any thing from me but you, because you are his wife; how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God? And it came to pass, as she spoke to Joseph day by day, that he listened not to her, to lie by her, or to be with her.

9) אסתר פרק ג

עִבְּגִי וְיַנִשְּׁאֵהוּ וַיִּשֶׁם הָאֵלֶה גִּדַל הַפֶּּלֶךְ אֲחַשְׁורוּש אֶת־הָמָן בֶּן־הַמְּדָרָא הָאֲגִי וְיַנִשְׁאֵהוּ וַיִּשֶּׁם אֶת־כִּסְאוֹ מֵעֵּל כָּל־הַשְּׁרִים אֲשֶׁר אִתוּ: (ב) וְכָל־הַאָּגִי וְיַנִשְׁאֵחוּ וַיִּשֶּׁם אֶת־כִּסְאוֹ מֵעֵּל כָּל־הַשְּׁרִים אֲשֶׁר אִתוֹ: (ב) וְכָל־עַבְּרִי הַפֶּּלֶךְ אֲשֶׁר־בְּשַׁעַר הַפֶּלֶךְ כִּרְעִים וּמִשְׁתַחְוִים לְהָבְּלֵן כִּי־כֵן צִיָּה־עַבְרִי הַפֶּּלֶךְ וֹמְלְּאַ יִשְׁתַחְוָה: (ג) וַיֹּאמְרוּ עַבְּרֵי הַפֶּלֶךְ: (ד) אֲשֶׁר־בְּשַעַר הַפֶּלֶךְ לְמָרְבַּי מֵלּוֹי יָוֹם וְלֹּא שְּׁמַע אֲבִיה מִבְּלִיךְ יִם וְיִנִיִּדוּ לְהָבִּין לִרוּם וְלִּא שְּׁמַע אֲבִיהְהָם וַיִּגִיִּדוּ לְהָבִין לִרוּם הַבִּי מִרדּבֹי כִּי־הגִיד להם אשר־הוּא יהוּדי:

After these things king Ahasuerus promoted Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, and advanced him, and set his seat above all the princes who were with him. And all the king's servants, who were in the king's gate, bowed, and did obeisance to Haman; for the king had so commanded concerning him. But Mordecai did not bow, nor did him obeisance. Then the king's servants, who were in the king's gate, said to Mordecai, Why do you transgress the king's command? Now it came to pass, when they spoke daily to him, and he did not listen to them, that they told Haman, to see whether Mordecai's words would stand; for he had told them that he was a Jew.

The Aggadah: Haman sells himself as a slave to Mordechai (Targum Esther)

It once happened that a city in India rebelled against Ahasuerus. In great haste troops were dispatched thither under the command of Mordecai and Haman. It was estimated that the campaign would require three years, and all preparations were made accordingly. By the end of the first year Haman had squandered the provisions laid in to supply the part of the army commanded by him, for the whole term of the campaign. Greatly embarrassed, he requested Mordecai to give him aid. Mordecai, however, refused him succor; they both had been granted the same amount of provisions for an equal number of men. Haman then offered to borrow from Mordecai and pay him interest. This, too, Mordecai refused to do, and for two reasons. If Mordecai had supplied Haman's men with provisions, his own would have to suffer, and as for interest, the law prohibits it, saying "Unto thy brother thou shalt not lend upon usury," and Jacob and Esau, the respective ancestors of Mordecai and Haman, had been brothers.

When starvation stared them in the face, the troops commanded by Haman threatened him with death unless he gave them their rations. Haman again resorted to Mordecai, and promised to pay him as much as ten per cent interest. The Jewish general continued to refuse the offer. But he professed himself willing to help him out of his embarrassment on one condition, that Haman sell himself to Mordecai as his slave. Driven into a corner, he acquiesced, and the contract was written upon Mordecai's knee-cap, because there was no paper to be found in the camp.

The bill of sale ran thus: "I, Haman, the son of Hammedatha of the family of Agag, was sent out by King Ahasuerus to make war upon an Indian city, with an army of sixty thousand soldiers, furnished with the necessary provisions. Precisely the same commission was given by the king to Mordecai, the son of Shimei of the tribe of Benjamin. But I squandered the provisions entrusted to me by the king, so that I had no rations to give to my troops. I desired to borrow from Mordecai on interest, but, having regard to the fact that Jacob and Esau were brothers, he refused to lend me upon usury, and I was forced to sell myself as slave to him. If, now, I should at any time decline to serve him as a slave, or deny that I am his slave, or if my children and children's children unto the end of all time should refuse to do him service, if only a single day of the week; or if I should act inimically toward him on account of this contract, as Esau did toward Jacob after selling him his birthright; in all these cases, a beam of wood is to be plucked out of the house of the recalcitrant, and he is to be hanged upon it. I, Haman, the son of Hammedatha of the family of Agag, being under no restraint, do hereby consent with my own will, and bind myself to be slave in perpetuity to Mordecai, in accordance with the contents of this document."

Later, when Haman attained to high rank in the state, Mordecai, whenever he met him, was in the habit of stretching out his knee toward him, so that he might see the bill of sale. This so enraged him against Mordecai and against the Jews that he resolved to extirpate the Jewish people.